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# 40 The Lincoln County asbestosis problem is fixable

*(Editor's note: The scientific and medical information presented in this letter cannot be verified. It is the opinion of the author only.)*

## Editor:

The Lincoln County asbestosis problem is fixable.

First, anyone with asbestos in their lungs needs to avoid all smoke. Smoke multiplies the danger of asbestosis 10 times. Research shows one inhaled asbestos fiber plus one inhaled smoke particle is equivalent to inhaling 10 asbestos fibers. Smoke multiplies asbestos lung damage significantly. Smoke overwhelms and kills the fine hairs within your lungs that clear dust from your lungs.

All smoke is toxic to people with asbestos in their lungs. Together, the people of Libby, Mont., need to stop tobacco smoke. They need to stop burning forest debris and garbage. Home chimneys in Libby are a huge smoke source.

Stopping the smoke will not be easy and I don't have the answers on how to stop the smoke. No matter, the smoke must be significantly reduced.

Second, stop breathing in new asbestos. If you have reason to suspect your home, have it checked for asbestos dust. If you find it in your home, talk to the EPA.

Third, remove asbestos from your lungs. A doctor, once asked, "Why should I waste time finding a cure for a disease that is disappearing from society?" My answer was, "A cure for asbestosis will spark a cure for silicosis and other deposition-caused lung diseases. The world needs this cure; it is in not just for Libby, Mont."

Here are some questions that will get people thinking about how to remove asbestos from lungs.

1. Can aerosolized surfactants improve asbestos lung clearance?

2. Can an oxygenated liquid, temporarily introduced into the

lungs, suspend asbestos fibers and rinse out the lungs?

3. Is there a pharmaceutical that will re-grow damaged or missing fine hairs (cilia) responsible for sweeping particles from your lungs? Would a hair-growth stimulator like minoxidil in Rogaine re-grow cilia?

4. Asbestos is so inert even macrophages can't digest it. Can asbestos be made reactive so macrophages can digest (remove) it? Is there a pharmaceutical that will make asbestos reactive? Is there a way to make asbestos ionic? Is there a coating you can give asbestos to make it susceptible to macrophage attack?

If you have been exposed to asbestos, demand that your health care provider look at these ideas. Ask your health care provider what you can do to help find the cure. Come up with more ideas. Ask the dog pound to check some of these

ideas for safety on dogs they plan to put to death. If you have a chicken to spare, invite your friends over to drink a beer and test one of these ideas. Have one friend get a nebulizer from the hospital (nebulizers only cost the hospital \$1). Have another friend get the chemical you want to try. Have another friend bring a small compressed air source to run the nebulizer. Have another friend get the beer and keep it cold. You get the idea. It really is that simple. If the chicken does not get sick or die, tell your health care provider you did a preliminary safety check. Then ask your health care provider what he or she is going to do about it. I engage the community to use persistence and find the cure now instead of in 100 years.

Remember, there is a cure for asbestosis. This is certain. Don't let the ongoing asbestosis suffering and deaths be in vain.

Joe Lix, Troy